



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

July 31, 2008

Hello Friends,

The 25th annual “National Night Out” will be held this year on August 5, 2008. Sponsored by the **National Association of Town Watch (NATW)**, National Night Out is a joint community/police program that provides information, educational materials and technical assistance to community groups to help develop an effective year-long partnership between the community and local law enforcement. **The goal is to reduce crime, violence and substance abuse at the community level.**

Community groups, teachers, businesspersons, public officials, religious leaders, parents and children will unite in the fight to make their neighborhoods safe from crime. They send a clear message to local gangs and other criminals that residents in their neighborhood intend to take back the streets. **National Night Out helps create crime prevention awareness in the neighborhood** through a multitude of events, such as, block parties, cookouts, parades, contests, youth events and seminars.

The NATW offers a number of services to communities that participate in National Night Out. It provides community leaders with a variety of “how-to” materials, including program guidelines, tips, questions and answers, camera-ready artwork, sample press releases and a National Night Out proclamation. As a part of National Night Out, the presence of local law enforcement in the community allows residents to meet them under very positive circumstances.

Seven years Ago, NATW added the successful Project 365, a program for community members and law enforcement to work *together* to make their communities safer. Project 365 asks participants to designate a particular problem area in their community. It can be anything from a park overtaken by drug dealers, a neighborhood gang, and a graffiti "tagger" problem, even an expansion of Neighborhood Watch to a particular neighborhood or block plagued by crime, drugs or violence.

The goal is to work towards correcting the problem within an estimated 365 days or by the next annual National Night Out. The success of both National Night Out and Project 365 has exceeded even the most optimistic estimates of their most enthusiastic supporters. Last year, the participation level of the 24th annual National Night Out involved 34.5 million people in 11,310 communities from all 50 states.

Let's strive to expand National Night Out to every community in the 30th Assembly District. It is a win-win for all of us. www.natw.org/nno

What's Happening in Sacramento

Negotiations continue between legislative leaders in finding a solution to the State budget crisis. The budget was supposed to have been signed by June 15 and enacted by July 1. Obviously, the legislature has once again missed that deadline. Many of you have questions over what the State can, and cannot pay during the period where a budget is not in place. The **State Controller's office** has established an excellent website to help answer many questions. I urge you to find out more by visiting: www.sco.ca.gov/eo/fiscalissues/payments.shtml

The United States Congress have approved a new law (Public Law 110-252) to grant **extended unemployment benefits for long-term laid off workers.** With California's unemployment rate at 6.8% and at the highest level in five years, these benefits will help maintain a safety net for the many workers who have exhausted their unemployment claims. Persons who are eligible may receive up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and the weekly benefit amount will be equal to the amount of his or her regular UI claim. For additional information, visit: www.edd.ca.gov

My Legislative Highlights

I proudly represented the 30th Assembly District at the National Conference of State Legislatures' 2008 Legislative Summit. The Summit was a meeting of ideas, solutions, innovations, and connections. Speakers included a diverse group from the private and public sectors, including former United States Senator Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana) and former Congressman Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia). Policy discussions revolved around a number of pertinent topics including agriculture, energy, budgets, and economic development. www.ncsl.org

Constituents Visit Sacramento

Congratulations to two Hanford organizations that have received funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Kings Community Action Organization and Champions Recovery Alternative Programs received grants from the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program. These funds go towards providing basic shelter assistance combined with services such as counseling, substance abuse treatment, and job training.

I am pleased to announce that the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) recently awarded tax credits to construct the new Lamont Family Apartments in Lamont in Kern County. The project developer is Corporation for Better Housing. The CTCAC administers a federal and state program which provides hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in affordable rental housing for lower-income families and individuals. www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac

Kudos to the cities of Avenal and Huron, and the County of Kings on being awarded grants from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Program), conditional on the enactment of the 2008-09 Budget. The CDBG Program plays an important role in the efforts of the state to address the needs of California's housing, community, and economic development needs.

I am pleased to announce that the Alpaugh Joint Powers Authority is eligible for a grant from the California Department of Public Health. The grant comes under Proposition 84 and is awarded to entities taking steps to enhance the provision and protection of the drinking water supplied to their consumers. Also receiving a grant under Proposition 84 funds was is the **Arvin Community Services District, as proposed by Edmundson Acres Mutual Water Company.**

www.cdph.ca.gov/services/funding/Pages/Prop84.aspx

In the District

Congratulations to Dameane Douglas and Ralph Loya, recent inductees to the Hanford High Bullpup Football Hall of Fame. Ralph Loya was a star of Hanford High's 1960 league championship. Dameane Douglas was a standout wide receiver for Hanford High, the University of California, and later in the National Football League. Today, Dameane is serving the citizens of Hanford and the 30th Assembly District as one of my outstanding Field Representatives.

I participated in a Technology in Health Care Tour and Roundtable this month. The event was attended by members of the **New Democrat Caucus.** Public officials, industry representatives, and policy experts engaged in lively discussions concerning the role of California's public policy in encouraging the adoption of technological innovation in health care delivery.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley.** Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at:

Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at:
Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at:
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